

In response to the October 30, 2002 Office Action,
please amend the above-identified application as follows:

IN THE ABSTRACT:

Kindly add the following new Abstract of the Disclosure:

A method of manufacturing an absorbent and time release material includes the steps of: (i) soaking a fibrous material in water to form a first intermediate; (ii) macerating the first intermediate to form a pulp; (iii) forming said pulp into a block; (iv) drying the block in a controlled atmosphere; (v) impregnating the dried block with a pre-selected substance; and (vi) grinding the impregnated block to form a powdered material.

IN THE CLAIMS:

Kindly cancel non-elected Claims 11-16, without prejudice or disclaimer of the subject matter recited therein.

Please amend Claims 1-10 by replacing them with the following Rewritten Claims. A copy of the Marked-up Claims is attached for the Examiner's convenience.